

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2009 Phase 1 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**LCCMR ID: B14.13**

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**Project Title:** HCP - Shoreland Protection Project - Conservation Easements (3a)

**Total Project Budget:** \$

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** July 2009 - June 2010 (1 yr)

**Other Non-State Funds:** \$ 1,000,000

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**Sponsoring Organization:** Minnesota Land Trust

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<b>Region:</b>	<b>County Name:</b>	<b>City / Township:</b>
Statewide	Statewide	

**Summary:** Protect critical riparian habitats by securing permanent conservation easements on up to 500-700 acres of land along lakes, wetlands, rivers and streams and dedicating funds to support those easements.

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**Main Proposal:** 0808-1-027-proposal-proposal with project list.doc

**Project Budget:** 0808-1-027-budget-project budget.xls

**Qualifications:** 0808-1-027-qualifications-Organization description.doc

**Map:**

**Letter of Resolution:** 0808-1-027-resolution-authorization letter.pdf

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## LCCMR PROPOSAL 2009

**PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota Land Trust: Shoreland Protection Project  
Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI**  
[www.mnhabitatcorridors.org](http://www.mnhabitatcorridors.org)

### I. PROJECT STATEMENT:

The mission of the Habitat Conservation Partnership is to restore, enhance and conserve habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and plant communities for all generations. Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership (Partnership), formerly the Habitat Corridors Partnership, was formed in 2000 to provide a framework for statewide land conservation in partnership with the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The work of the Partnership has three main objectives: 1. **Partnership**: working together to accelerate existing programs and identify new opportunities that build upon our existing investments in habitat. 2. **Focus**: Work under the Phase VI proposal will be in nine project areas encompassing 27,442 mi<sup>2</sup>. All work proposed will occur within the identified project areas. These areas were identified as focus areas where resource conservation priorities and opportunity overlap. 3. **Leverage**: The objective of this partnership is to bring more resources to bear on Minnesota's conservation need by identifying non-state contributions to accelerate habitat conservation thereby maximizing the results from limited funding through the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

The Minnesota Land Trust's Shoreland Protection Program is one of the most focused and highly leveraged components of the Partnership. Working in many of the delineated project areas, our land protection efforts are directed only to protecting critical riparian shorelands along Minnesota's legendary network of lakes, wetlands, rivers and streams—some of the most valuable and vulnerable habitats in the State. Working primarily with donated conservation easements whenever possible and purchasing easements only when necessary, we are able to protect land at a fraction of what it would cost to purchase land in fee and dramatically leverage limited public dollars through the generosity of our conservation-minded landowners.

The Land Trust works only with perpetual conservation easements. These easements prohibit those land uses or development that harm or negatively affect important riparian and other habitat values and require habitat management plans as appropriate, ensuring that long term land management will maximize habitat values.

We carefully select, design and implement individual real estate projects to make sure that conservation goals and objectives can be met and that identified conservation values can be protected in perpetuity. Working with willing and committed landowners, we prioritize projects and coordinate with other partners to the extent possible in order to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.

### II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

**Result 1: Protect Critical Shorelands through Conservation Easements Budget: \$400,000**

The Minnesota Land Trust will protect critical riparian habitats in any of the designated project areas throughout the State by identifying and contacting interested landowners, negotiating and completing 5-7 perpetual conservation easements (including documenting property conditions and creating management plans as appropriate) on up to 500-700 acres of land and dedicating funds for long-term monitoring, management and enforcement of the easements.

The Land Trust will work primarily with donated easements, purchasing easements when necessary and then at below market value whenever possible. We currently have numerous projects pending, as identified on the attached list. While some of these pending projects may not be completed at all, new projects will be added as landowners are identified. We will continually evaluate all projects to maximize conservation effectiveness.

**Deliverables****Completion Date**

1. Protect up to 500-700 acres of land by identifying and contacting landowners, completing all components of conservation easement projects and dedicating funds to ensure long-term easement sustainability.

6/30/2010

**III. PROJECT STRATEGY AND TIMELINE****A. Project Partners**

This proposal is part of the Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI Proposal. Please see the main proposal for a complete list of partners involved. In addition to these partners, the many private landowners of lands protected by conservation easements completed under this project remain responsible for the use and management of their lands to preserve and protect the identified conservation values, making these landowners long-term partners in the preservation and protection of these critical areas.

**B. Project Impact**

The focus of the Minnesota Land Trust's activities under this project is on shorelands—fragile and ecologically important areas that have been recognized in the *Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan* as among the most threatened natural systems in the State and in need of protection, conservation, and restoration.

Each individual conservation easement project completed by the Land Trust is evaluated to make sure that there are important conservation features that can be protected in perpetuity through the conservation easement being contemplated and that protection of these features provides significant public benefits. Additionally, the Land Trust places priority on projects that complement existing protected lands and connect important habitat areas, thereby amplifying the ecological value and public benefits achieved by an individual project.

The Minnesota Land Trust holds more conservation easements than any other private conservation organization in the State, making it one of the most experienced organizations working with this unique conservation tool. As we learn from our experiences in protecting land with conservation easements, we will continue to share our knowledge and techniques with others working in this area.

**C. Time**

We propose a twelve month grant beginning July 1, 2009 and ending on June 30, 2010.

**D. Long-Term Strategy**

This unique Partnership exists as a result of the desire of LCCMR to encourage conservation partners to work together as a statewide collaboration to focus resources and bring additional funds to Minnesota's wildlife habitat resources. We are 18 formal partner agencies and organizations recognized for an ability to achieve the mission of restoring, enhancing and conserving habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and native plant communities for all generations. This phase of the project places us half way toward what was originally conceived of as a 20-year effort.

This project is also a component of the Minnesota's Land Trust's long-term, strategic conservation agenda which guides the Land Trust's conservation work throughout the State. The conservation agenda sets out the specific conservation focus of the Land Trust which includes, among other things, the preservation of lakeshores, rivers and streams for their importance as habitat, for their relationship to water quality, and for the scenic values that have long been associated with Minnesota's beauty. The conservation agenda also identifies a suite of critical landscapes throughout the State that embody the natural and cultural features that make Minnesota unique. Many of these critical landscapes substantially overlap with the project areas identified through the Habitat Conservation Partnership.

## Minnesota Land Trust Shoreland Protection Project Budget

### IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT	% FTE
<b>Personnel:</b> Staff expenses including salaries, benefits (FICA,FUTA, SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) and related costs for approximately 1.00 FTE for one years as follows:	\$ 80,000	100% of 1 FTE
Conservation directors or other land protection staff (aproximately .75 FTE)		
Staff attorney and other support staff (approximately .25 FTE)		
<b>Travel:</b>	\$ 5,000	
<b>Conservation Easement Acquistion Costs:</b> 5-7 easements protecting up to 500-700 acres of land including costs of:	\$ 215,000	
Purchase price of consrvtion easement(s)		
Title work, title insurance, etc		
Maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS)		
Film		
Other (including appraisals, survey, closing costs, recording fees, etc.)		
<b>Conservation Easment Stewardship :</b> Dedicating funds for long-term stewardship on 5-7 easements	\$ 100,000	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR</b>	<b>\$ 400,000</b>	

### V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
<b>Remaining \$ From Previous Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable):</b> <b>Phase V (2008):</b> \$210,000--We have not yet begun spending the phase V appropriation but all funds have been internally allocated to staff or specific projects. <b>Phase IV (2007):</b> All funds are or will be obligated before the end on September, 2008.	\$210,000	We anticipate that all Trust Fund moneys appropriated in Habitat Conservation Partneship Phases IV (2007) & V (2008) will be spent or legally committed prior to July 1, 2009
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Leveraged During Project Period:</b> These other funds represent an estimate of the potential value of easements donated to the Land Trust under this project. The value of donated easements is difficult to predict, but we believe we can achieve at least a one million dollars in leverage	\$1,000,000	Pending, dependent upon actual projects completed.
<b>Other State \$ Being Spent During Project Period:</b> While not currently aticipated, the Land Trust does from time to time collaborate with other partners in order to complete specific projects.	unknown at this time	
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> While the Land Trust does not itemize the specific value of in-kind services, substantial amounts of unreimbursable staff time and overhead are required to complete land protection projects with Trust Funds.	unknown	
<b>Past Spending:</b> The funds indentified here are prior Trust Fund appropriations to prior phases of this project inlcud \$210,000 for Phase V and \$300,000 for phase IV. It does not include donated value of easements completed or expected to be completed under these prior phases or funds from other sources spent on projects completed under these grants.	\$ 510,000	Phase IV & V

**Minnesota Land Trust  
LCCMR Habitat Corridors Partnership Project—Phase 5 Potential Project List  
August 25, 2008**

The following is a list of projects the Minnesota Land Trust is currently considering. Other projects may be added to the list as new landowners are contacted.

Many projects on the list will not be completed. Others may be completed under prior phases of this program.

**Project Area 1**

Site	Acres	Water Body	Shoreline Feet	County
<b>Willow Water Lake</b>	258	Willow Water Lake	5,954	Polk

**Project Area 2**

Site	Acres	Water Body	Shoreline Feet	County
<b>Black Lake</b>	276	Black Lake	4,000	Beltrami
<b>Boot Lake</b>	178	Boot Lake	4,000	Beltrami
<b>Botany Bog</b>	232	Wetlands		Itasca
<b>Buena Vista</b>	500	Larson Lake	extensive	Beltrami
<b>Bush Shanty Lake</b>	40	Bush Shanty Lake	500	Itasca
<b>Buzzle Lake</b>	30	Buzzle Lake & Creek	2,500	Beltrami
<b>Clearbrook</b>	173	Wetlands	500	Clearwater
<b>5 Lakes SNA</b>	527	5 Lakes	extensive	Itasca
<b>Lakeport Township</b>	80	Wetlands & Creek	2,000	Hubbard
<b>Lake Winni</b>	43	Lake Winni	2,800	Itasca
<b>Mosquito Creek</b>	141	Mosquito Creek	2,000	Clearwater
<b>Oak Lake</b>	72	Oak Lake		Hubbard
<b>Sand Lake</b>	7	Sand Lake	600	Itasca
<b>Trout Lake</b>	14	Trout Lake	100	Itasca
<b>Turtle Lake</b>	40	Turtle Lake & Wetlands		Itasca

**Project Area 3-7-8**

Site	Acres	Water Body	Shoreline Feet	County
<b>Big Cormorant Lake</b>	35	Big Cormorant Lake	2,500	Becker
<b>Boo Lake</b>	66	Boo Lake	4,400	Meeker
<b>Cooks Lake</b>	495	Cooks Lake	13,391	Becker/ Otter Tail
<b>Crooked Lake</b>	13	Crooked Lake	3,443	Douglas
<b>George Lake</b>	120	George Lake		Kandiyohi
<b>Glacial Ridge</b>	20	Ponds		Kandiyohi
<b>Koronis Hills</b>	65	Wetlands		Stearns
<b>Kreitlow Farm</b>	80	Creek		Wright
<b>Lake Bountiful</b>	120	Lake Bountiful		Douglas

<b>Pelican Lake</b>	91	Wetlands, Pond		Otter Tail
<b>Quinn Lake</b>	80	Quinn Lake, Wetlands		Stearns
<b>Rice Lake</b>	128	Rice Lake	1,937	Wright
<b>Three Lakes</b>	790	Fischer, Murphy, Gray	41,480	Becker

**Project Area 4**

Site	Acres	Water Body	Shoreline Feet	County
<b>Clamshell Lake</b>	20	Clamshell Lake	1,300	Crow Wing
<b>Farm Island</b>	46	Farm Island Lake	1,300	Aitkin
<b>Great River Road</b>	78	River	550	Aitkin
<b>Island Lake</b>	107	Island Lake	2,600	Crow Wing
<b>Island Lake</b>	600	Island Lake	25,000	Crow Wing
<b>Island Lake</b>	45	Island Lake		Crow Wing
<b>Lake Lougee Wetlands</b>	30	Wetlands	500	Crow Wing
<b>Little Pine River</b>	84	Little Pine River	2,500	Crow Wing
<b>Pelican Lake</b>	275	Pelican Lake		Crow Wing

**Project Area 5**

Site	Acres	Water Body	Shoreline Feet	County
<b>Castle Danger</b>	44	Lake Superior	1,400	Lake
<b>Chester Creek</b>	40	Chester Creek		St. Louis
<b>East Castle Danger</b>	35		600	Lake
<b>Lester River</b>	80	Lester River	3,750	St. Louis
<b>Sucker River</b>	65	Sucker River	1,275	St. Louis

**Project Area 6**

Site	Acres	Water Body	Shoreline Feet	County
<b>Minnesota River</b>	157	Minnesota River		La Qui Parle

**Project Area 10**

Site	Acres	Water Body	Shoreline Feet	County
<b>Le Sueur River</b>	140	Le Sueur River	5,000	Blue Earth
<b>Union Lake</b>	70	Union Lake		Rice

**Project Area 11**

Site	Acres	Water Body	Shoreline Feet	County
<b>Apple Blossom Drive</b>	250			Houston
<b>Middle Creek</b>	30	Middle Creek	1,900	Wabasha
<b>Pepin Hills</b>	307	Mississippi River	7,677	Wabasha
<b>Pleasant Valley</b>	200			Winona
<b>Pleasant Valley</b>	132			Winona
<b>Snake Creek</b>	35	Snake Creek	1,700	Wabasha
<b>Zumbro Bottoms</b>	800	Zumbro River	5,000	Wabasha
<b>Evergreen Acres</b>	125	Zumbro River	4,000	Olmsted

## Minnesota Land Trust: Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

### Organization Description

The Minnesota Land Trust is a private, nonprofit organization that preserves the natural and scenic heritage of our State by permanently protecting lands and waters that define our communities and enrich our quality of life.

Since 1991, the Minnesota Land Trust has been helping landowners and local communities preserve our State's natural and scenic heritage in the face of increasing threats to our important landscapes. To meet our current challenges, the Land Trust has developed a *conservation agenda* to strategically guide our work and has adopted *integrated four-part program* to implement this agenda.

The *conservation agenda* sets out the specific *conservation focus* of the Minnesota Land Trust and identifies a suite of *critical landscapes* throughout the State that embody the natural and cultural features that make Minnesota unique.

The suite of strategies selected reflects our growing awareness that *permanently protecting* Minnesota's valuable lands and waters, particularly through the use of conservation easements, requires an expanded notion of land protection and includes:

- Community Assistance. We support and assist thoughtful community land use planning, programs and projects that use natural resource data to identify places to protect and places to build.
- Direct Land Protection. We identify and directly protect significant tracts of land throughout the State. We carefully select, design and implement individual real estate projects to make sure that conservation goals and objectives can be met and conservation values protected in perpetuity where appropriate. We continue to work extensively with conservation easements, using other real estate options when needed. The Land Trust is the only statewide organization that extensively uses conservation easements as a protection strategy. The Land Trust completed its first easement in 1993 encompassing 80 acres of land in Washington County. Since then, we have completed 369 projects protecting 33,138 acres throughout Minnesota.
- Land Management. We encourage and support the restoration and management of specific sites where appropriate to ensure their long-term ecological viability.
- Research, Education and Advocacy. We engage in research and provide information and materials to the public and policy makers on needs, issues and tools related to land conservation. We advocate at federal, state and local levels for policies, practices and programs that further our mission.

### Project Manager Qualifications

#### **Jane Prohaska, President and Executive Director**

Jane Prohaska joined the Minnesota Land Trust staff in November 2000. Jane is responsible for providing programmatic leadership and operational oversight for all of the Land Trust's programs. Her duties include working with the Board of Trustees, creating and managing plans and budgets, and supervising staff. Jane is no stranger to conservation. She is a frequent lecturer on conservation issues nationally and recently authored a book for the Land Trust Alliance curriculum series, *Nonprofit Law and Recordkeeping for Land Trusts*. Prior to coming to the Minnesota Land Trust, Jane worked for The Nature Conservancy for 18 years, most recently as Vice President and Midwest Regional Director and prior to that as the Conservancy's Regional

Counsel, bringing a wealth of direct land preservation experience to the Land Trust. Jane also worked in the Office of the Minnesota Attorney General for several years where she practiced in the civil and criminal divisions. She has a law degree from the University of Minnesota and a bachelor's degree from Carleton College.

**Other staff**

All of the Minnesota Land Trust's experienced regional conservation directors will work on this projects. Support will be provided by the Land Trust's staff attorney and other administrative personnel.